PostScript

Ohio Section

Labor Day Edition

144 – 146 MHz Removed from French Proposal for Additional Aeronautical Applications

The 144 – 146 MHz Amateur Radio segment has been removed from a French proposal to study spectrum additional for Aeronautical Mobile Service (AMS) applications. France had included the band, which comprises the entire 2-meter band in ITU Region 1, for consideration as a European Conference of Telecommunications and Postal Administrations (CEPT) position for World Radiocommunication Conference 2019 (WRC-19). Heading into a just-ended CEPT Conference Preparatory Group (CPG) meeting in Turkey this past week, France was holding firm on the proposal to have AMS share 144 – 146 MHz with Amateur Radio. The CPG meeting considered CEPT ECC positions on this and other issues for WRC-19.

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) had called the French proposal for 144 – 146 MHz "unsound" and contended that sharing of the current amateur allocation with AMS radio systems would not be possible "without a significant likelihood of mutual interference."

The French spectrum study proposal would have had to gain approval from at least 10 CEPT countries at the CPG meeting — with not more than 6 opposing — to appear on the agendas of WRC-19 and WRC-23, where a final decision would be made.

Also, at the CEPT meeting, at the insistence of the European Commission, a WRC-23 agenda item was considered necessary to address world-wide protection of Regional Navigational Satellite Systems (RNSS) from amateur emissions in the 23-centimeter band, 1240 – 1300 MHz. Delegates agreed to a draft WRC Resolution that stresses the importance of the band to the Amateur Service and explicitly excludes the removal of existing allocations as part of the proposed agenda item. The issue stems from reported incidents of interference to the Galileo GPS E6 signal on 1278.750 MHz.

Other Amateur Radio-related issues addressed at the CEPT CPG included:

- Agreement to a European Common Proposal (ECP) on allocating 50 – 52 MHz to the Amateur Service in Region 1 (Europe, Africa, and the Middle East) on a secondary basis, with a footnote listing those countries where the Amateur Service will have a primary allocation in the band 50 – 50.5 MHz (WRC-19 Agenda Item 1.1).

- Agreement to an ECP on spectrum to be considered for International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT), which does not now include the primary Amateur Radio band at 47 – 47.2 GHz (WRC Agenda Item 1.13).

- Agreement to an ECP that retains the current regulatory position in the 5725 – 5850 MHz band that includes secondary Amateur Radio and Amateur Satellite allocations (WRC Agenda Item 1.16).

- No change to an already agreed upon CEPT position on wireless power transmission (WRC Agenda item 9.1.6). This calls for no change in the *Radio Regulations* to address the question of operating frequency for wireless power transmission for electric vehicle charging (WPT-EV), but leaves open the question of spurious emissions from WPT-EV.

IARU Region 1 President Don Beattie, G3BJ, said that the IARU team at Ankara — the only representatives of the Amateur Service at the meeting — had presented clear and convincing arguments for Amateur Radio positions and that he was pleased that regulators had recognized the strength of the amateur case. He expressed his thanks to everyone who contributed to the outcome at CPG.

CEPT is one of the six regional telecommunications organizations but viewed as the most influential. The issues now move to WRC-19 in Egypt this fall for final resolution. IARU will be represented at the international gathering, which gets under way in late October. — *Thanks to IARU*

#########

Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) Station Registration Now Available

Registration now is open for stations to register for Scouting's 2019 Jamboree on the Air (**JOTA**). JOTA will take place October 18 – 20. JOTA is Scouting's largest event in the world and always takes place over the third weekend of October. Click on "Sign Up Now" and register using your free Scout.org user id.

Use the same site to register for the 2019 Jamboree on the Internet (JOTI).

Bill Stearns, NE4RD, has been named the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) National Jamboree on the Air Task Force Chair. He has activated a number of JOTA and Scout Camp stations from the Montana Scout Council and served on the 2017 National Scout Jamboree K2BSA and 2019 World Scout Jamboree NA1WJ staffs.

The NA1WJ Amateur Radio operation at the 2019 World Scout Jamboree in West Virginia **reported** that more than 3,000 Scouts took part in the ham radio demonstrations, logging more than 4,000 contacts in 86 DXCC entities.

#########

Operating the HPM 150 Event with N1MM Logger+
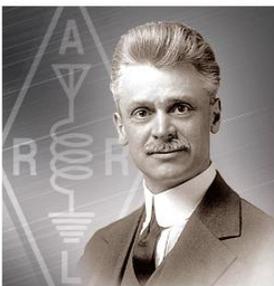
If you're an *N1MM Logger+* user and planning to operate the **Hiram Percy Maxim 150th** birthday celebration event August 31 – September 8, you'll first need to download the file **HPM150.zip**. Then, extract the files into **C:\Users\<*your user name*>\(My) Documents\N1MM Logger+\UserDefinedContests**. "HPM 150" will show up as a contest choice when you open a new log file.

Operating FT4 or FT8 during HPM 150 is not quite as simple. According to *WSJT-X* developer Joe Taylor, K1JT, the two digital modes are "not a good fit" for the HPM 150 event.

"There's no built-in support for two stations using non-standard call signs to work each other with standard auto-sequencing," Taylor said. "Messages intended for Field Day support the exchange of ARRL/RAC sections, but do not include signal reports."

TOP ^

He said it's possible to piece together the necessary contact information using free-text messages and manual sequencing, "but most FT4/FT8 users would not find this convenient or enjoyable after the first few QSOs," he added. — *Thanks to Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, and Joe Taylor, K1JT*

#########

ARRL HF Band Planning Committee Reactivated to Address Spectrum Issues

In an effort to more effectively address HF digital technology issues, ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, has reactivated the ARRL Board of Directors' HF Band Planning Committee. The six-member panel, chaired by First Vice President Greg Widin, K0GW, will primarily focus on spectrum allocation issues that have gained increased visibility with discussions on accommodating automatically controlled digital stations (ACDS) — many employing **Winlink** email. The committee will also discuss operating frequencies for FT4, FT8, and other digital modes. Widin says the committee will meet next week to chart its course. Reactivation of the HF Band Planning Committee came out of discussions during the July 2019 ARRL Board meeting.

"ARRL is not trying to shut down digital communication or shut down Winlink in particular," Widin said, adding that ARRL recognizes Winlink's proven track record in emergency communication. His committee also will consider Winlink supporters' calls for the expansion of the ACDS segments spelled out in §97.221(b) of the amateur rules.

"This is not an easy task by any means," Widin allowed. "They're not making more bandwidth." He said this is especially a problem on 40 meters.

"We're well aware that Winlink is the *de facto* standard supporting emergency communications in many parts of the country, but we have to figure out how it can operate with other modes, so that everybody can communicate," Widin said, "without having one mode overrun any other mode." The committee will not address data encryption questions at this point, however.

In response to ARRL's 2013 petition to delete the so-called "symbol rate" limit and replace it with a maximum bandwidth for data emissions of 2.8 kHz below 29.7 MHz, the FCC **proposed** to eliminate symbol rate (baud rate) limitations for data transmissions but declined to propose a bandwidth limitation.

At its July meeting, the ARRL Board of Directors called for ARRL's Washington Counsel to obtain FCC approval for several Part 97 rule changes. The Board asked for a rulemaking petition to remove the current 300 baud rate limitation; authorize all ACDS below 30 MHz, regardless of bandwidth, to operate only within the ACDS bands designated in §97.221(b); require digital stations operating with a bandwidth greater than 500 Hz to operate within the ACDS bands, whether or not automatically controlled, and limit the maximum bandwidth of digital signals below 29 MHz to 2.8 kHz.

ARRL-initiated mediation efforts for rival parties to reach consensus on all or some of the issues raised in the "symbol rate" proceeding ended a few days prior to the July Board meeting. While those discussion were useful, no consensus among parties was reached for FCC consideration. Widin said some positions may have been too divergent to find viable middle ground.

"We still want to change the symbol rate limitation into a bandwidth limitation, which makes a lot more sense in terms of current and future modes," Widin said.

The panel also hopes to work with the WSJT-X Development Group to establish FT4 frequencies compatible with existing band plans.Widin further suggested that his committee will have to look beyond the current landscape of HF digital modes into what might lie ahead.

The Handbook Give Away

Hey Gang,

We had another fantastic response this month, but I'm sure you're more interested in knowing just who won the Handbook this month...
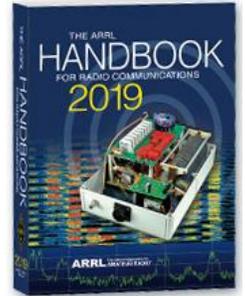
And the winner is…. *Jordan Crabtree, KE8MKY*

We've had another a great response after with the Give Away so… I decided to also give away something really special this time around. Since the weather has changed from cold to really hot and sticky, why not give out official Ohio Section T-Shirts!

So, I'm sending out an **official Ohio Section T-Shirt** to:

Thomas Holmes, Sr, WD8EFF & Ronald Day, KE8FKN!

Many of you ask me just how do I know when the drawing is on? Well, that's easy all you need to do is check in on the Ohio Section Website on a regular basis and watch for the big RED Arrow that will appear on the left side of the page. This is the sign that the drawing is on and you need to get registered. So, keep a sharp eye out on the website and check in often! http://arrl-ohio.org

You just never know.. You just might be the next winner!

Club Corner

This is YOUR cornner of the newsletter. Send me what your club is doing and I'll make sure that it gets in. Got a special event or club project that you want everyone to know about? Send it to me!. Need help with a project? Send it to me.

Let me know what you club is up to. Are you going to have a special guest at your meeting or are you having a special anniversary? Just sent it to:
n8sy@n8sy.com

#########

TOP ^

Help Needed for the Potato Stomp

The Mantua Potato Stomp will be holding their annual foot race on **Saturday September 7th** in the Mantua-Hiram area. This event consists of a four-mile and a nine-mile race on various roads in Mantua Village and Township and Hiram Township. Radio operators will be needed to staff the intersections on the course, provide a Shadow to the race director, a NCS, and a sweep.

Ed, K8IV recently installed a UHF repeater at the tower on the hill just east of Mantua Village. It was used for the Headwaters Adventure Race, which is in the same area that the Mantua Potato Stomp race will take place. The coverage of this repeater in the local area is superb and allows Radio Operators to use just a UHF hand-held at almost every location in the area with full quieting coverage. Because of this we will no longer have to rely on establishing cross-band repeaters to get coverage throughout the course.

This is also the date for OSPOTA so I know many of you will be involved with that. But, for those who are not, I would sincerely appreciate your help. If you're new to public service communications support and are reluctant to do it alone, let me know and I'll pair you with an experienced operator so you'll get a chance to observe, learn and participate. Drop me a note at k8cav.coms@gmail.com if you can help with this event. Thanks!

#########

Medina County Amateur Radio Club Out and About

Sam Boyer of the Sun News wants MCARC to come back to Heritage Farm in Brunswick.

Fred K8FH will again be bringing the communications trailer to **Heritage Farm**, 4613 Laurel Road, Brunswick 44212, home of the Brunswick Area Historical Society, on Sunday, September 15th from 11:00am to 2:00pm.

It's free and will be held during the Sunday Farmers Market.

We'll have handouts and poster display about Ham Radio and coloring sheets for the kids. But once again we are in need of volunteers:

- People to explain to kids and/or adults what Amateur Radio is about
- Someone at home to respond to a GOTA station
- Perhaps a simple home brew circuit that lights up or makes noise
- Anything clever to get people's attention

Please let me know if you are willing to participate. It is a great opportunity to spread the word about Ham Radio in general and our Club in particular.

Thank you and 73, Jane@K8JGR.radio or 216-570-8500 (mobile and text)

#########

TOP ^

POW – MIA Event

On **September 13 thru the 22nd** of 2019 We will honor and support our Veterans with a Special Event on the air as K4MIA/8. Linda N8LRS and Metro W8MET will be the sister-station from Ohio for our 4th year.

This event originated from K4MIA, Mike from Florida with other sister-stations involved. Details can be found on the ARRL website under "ON-THE-AIR" under SPECIAL EVENT under the call-letters of K4MIA.

Also, this Special Event will be in the September QST. Please take part in this Special Event for our Veterans. QSL is available with SASE. We will be operating on 40 meter's SSB. GOD BLESS AMERICA   73, Linda and Metro

#########

Bike Cleveland Fundo September 7

We are seeking volunteers for Bike Cleveland Fundo on Saturday, **September 7**th at Edgewater Park. It's a 30 mile and 60-mile bicycle ride starting at Edgewater Park and ends at Edgewater Park. The 30-mile riders depart at 9AM and the 60-mile riders depart at 8AM.

I am seeking volunteers for SAG, Rest Stops, and Net Control. Volunteers receive a free t-shirt and a delicious lunch. Please sign up at www.w8dec.net. Click on events and you'll see the Fundo listed. Password is fundo2019!

If you can only volunteer for part of the day, that's ok we'll have an assignment to accommodate your schedule.

#########

Twisted Pretzel Tour 2019 - Saturday, September 28, 2019

Germantown Amateur Radio Society will once again be providing communications support for the ever-growing Twisted Pretzel Tour (TPT) to be held on Saturday morning, September the 28th.

The TPT has over 600 bicyclists covering four routes consisting of 8, 21, of 8, 21, 39, and 50 miles each in the Germantown Farmersville areas.

It takes many amateurs to cover these routes. Your help is needed for this very popular public service event, which runs starting at 7am and lasting until approximately 12 noon.

We will be utilizing the *GARS* 443.1875 repeater. Please note a PL 123.0 is needed to access this repeater.

Amateur operators are needed !!! If interested please contact Phil Thomas, W8RMJ at 937-902-6738.

#########

TOP ^

Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Club Helping out Scouting

The local Boy Scout Camp (Camp Stambaugh) in Youngstown is celebrating 100 years this year. Our club **The Mahoning Valley Amateur Radio Association** was asked to come out and set up some radios for the day and make some contacts.

We will be operating on the calling frequencies on the 20, 40, and 80-meter bands under the club call sign of W8QLY. On Saturday **September 21st**. Operating during the hours of 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

We will be letting Scouts and parents that are interested in trying their hand on the on the air, try if they would like to try so please be patient and either be prepared to answer lots of questions or ask lots of them. For those of you that can help we would greatly appreciate it.

#########

ARRL Membership and Your Club - Club Commission Program

 Do you know that ARRL will pay your club money to take new or renewal memberships for them? Here's how one club in the Ohio Section is already taking advantage of this great program.

*Please consider paying your dues **for ARRL membership** through our club Treasurer, Gail KD8GGM. **M2M will retain $15.00 for each NEW membership and $2.00 for each renewal**.*

*Yearly dues are $49.00 for regular membership, $25.00 for youth under age 21 being oldest Ham in household, and $10.00 for Additional Ham member in family. All but Additional Ham memberships will receive the monthly QST magazine. Dues can be paid by cash, **personal check made out to "Medina Two Meter Group"** or credit card.*

A copy of the ARRL Membership Application/Renewal form is appended to this newsletter). Please return it with payment to: *Gail Helwig KD8GGM, Treasurer, M2M Group, 12891 East River Road, Columbia Station, Ohio 44028. (Do not mail cash, give it to Gail at the next meeting.)*

This is just one of many clubs around the state that are taking advantage of this great program. You pay your ARRL dues directly to your club representative and your club gets to keep $2 from each renewal and a whopping $15 for each new member that joins! That can turn into a lot of money for your club for doing just a little bookwork. Not a bad idea is it? Is your club doing this? You might want to ask your leadership why not!! Want more information? http://www.arrl.org/affiliated-club-benefits

#########

Lorain County Amateur Radio Club To Hold Technician Classes

Technician Classes Coming Soon Technician license classes will be taught by LCARA member Eric Jessen, N8AUC. Ten sessions begin **Sept. 9 at 6 PM** at the Lorain County Office of Emergency Management. Students are responsible for getting the text: the ARRL Technician License Manual. Contact Eric at n8auc@arrl.net for more information, or to register.

#########

TOP ^

Huron County Emergency Management Agency Presents –
## Technician Level (beginner) Amateur Radio License Prep Course

This six-week course is FREE and open to the public. It will be held Monday evenings beginning 16 September, from 6:30pm to 8:30 pm. The course will be held at the Huron County EMA , 255 B Shady Lane Dr, Norwalk, OH 44857.

We will be using the Amateur Radio Relay League License Manual as our primary study guide. This is available from multiple online sources. It would be very helpful, but not required to have a copy of the current manual.

If purchasing the manual, please make sure it is Level 1, Technician.

In addition to the ARRL manual, we will have seasoned Amateurs from the area to assist and answer questions to help you prepare for the course.

Registration is requested but not required by calling the Huron County Emergency Management Agency at: 419-633-5772

<center>#########</center>
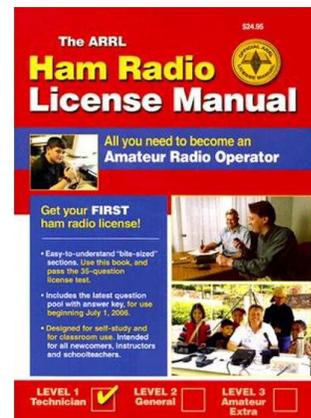
2019 Greater Carnation Festival Grand Parade August 10, 2019
(From: Ron Rittenhouse (KE8HCY) President Alliance Amateur Radio Club W8LKY)

The Alliance Amateur Radio Club (W8LKY) provided Emergency Communications for the Greater Alliance (Ohio) Carnation Festival Grand Parade on August 10, 2019.

The Ten-Day annual festival concludes with the Grand Parade. The Parade stepped off at 11AM at Fernwood Blvd and West State Street and concluded 2.1 miles later at the intersection of Broadway Street and South Union Ave. This was the Sixtieth (60TH) anniversary of the Carnation Festival Celebration in Alliance. The Festival honor's The Official State Flower of Ohio, the Scarlet Carnation.

Thirteen (13) Ham Operators were stationed along the entire 2.1 mile parade route. Twelve (12) operators were W8LKY members and One (1) operator from PCARS. The Alliance Club was represented by the following and includes hours of service on the project: Frank Sanor (WA8WHP)Four (4) hours, Tomas St.George (KC8ZEH) Four (4) hours, Lorin Kleinhans (KD8WVE) Four (4) hours, Paul Richardson (K2ASA) Four (4) hours, Howard Miller, Jr. (K8DXR) Four (4) hours, Ron Rittenhouse (KE8HCY) Twelve (12) hours (Project Chairperson), Shawn Gentile (KD8ZEZ) Four (4) hours, Dwight Turner (KD8YFV) Four (4) hours, David Kleinhans (KE8IYN) Four (4) hours, David Moreno, Jr. (KE8JLP) Five (5) hours, club secretary assisted project chairperson, Doug Matthews (KD8DNQ) Four (4) hours, Mike Urban (KE8CKL) Four (4) hours . The PCARS operator was Karen Andrews (N8HUC) Four (4) hours. The total service hours for this project was Sixty-One (61) hours of community service, Frank (WA8WHP was net control.

The weather was ideal, in the upper 70's and no chance of rain. This year, we created a Parade Flow report; we charted the flow of the parade. Each operator along the parade route reported the arrival of the first and last parade units to Net Control. The Parade Flow report was shared with the Festival's Grand Parade Chairpersons after the conclusion of the event.

No Emergencies occurred and the ebb and flow of the parade was reasonable with a few gaps, but not as many as in the past. W8LKY did have communications via our frequencies with the Alliance Police department. The Alliance Police Auxiliary handled traffic control, W8LKY served as communicators only; we were not involved with parade units.

A pre parade meeting was conducted at 9AM on the day of the event, and prior to each operator assuming their assigned location on the parade route. A packet was distributed at the pre parade meeting, the packet included the latest Parade line up, a parade map, a list of all the operators on the project (locations, tactical call sign to be used) and project's SOP's (standard Operating Procedures and overview of the project). One third (33%) of the club participated in the project and we had no problem filling the assignments for this project. The project is part of W8LKY's Community Service agenda for 2019. W8lky will be providing Emergency Communications for the Alliance Rotary Clubs Annual Labor Day Castle Run event on September 2nd, 2019. Alliance Amateur Radio Club (W8LKY) is an ARRL Special Services Club. "Pride in the Carnation City" and 73' from Alliance Amateur Radio Club W8lky.

Upcoming Hamfests

09/08/2019 | Findlay Hamfest
Location: Findlay, OH
Sponsor: Findlay Radio Club
Website: http://www.findlayradioclub.org

09/21/2019 | The OHKYIN ARS Hamfest
Location: Cincinnati, OH
Sponsor: OHKYIN Amateur Radio Society
Website: http://www.ohkyin.org

09/22/2019 | Cleveland Hamfest and Computer Show
Location: Berea, OH
Sponsor: Hamfest Association of Cleveland
Website: http://www.hac.org

10/05/2019 | Scioto Valley Amateur Radio Hamfest
Location: Chillicothe, OH
Sponsor: Scioto Valley Amateur Radio Club

10/12/2019 | NWOARC Fall Hamfest
Location: Lima, OH
Sponsor: Northwest Ohio Amateur Radio Club
Website: http://www.nwoarc.com

11/02/2019 | GARC Hamfest
Location: Georgetown, OH
Sponsor: Grant Amateur Radio Club
Website: https://www.facebook.com/Grant-Amateur-Radio-Club-1775764122477536/?modal=admin_todo_tour

11/03/2019 | Massillon ARC Hamfest
Location: Massillon, OH
Sponsor: Massillon Amateur Radio Club
Website: http://www.w8np.org

TOP ^

DX This Week
(from Bill, AJ8B)

DX This Week – Reverse Beacon Network
Bill AJ8B (aj8b@arrl.net, @AJ8B, www.aj8b.com or www.swodxa.org)
CWOPs Member #1567
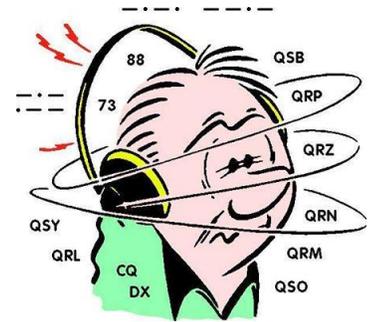
In my weekly chat with Uncle Frank, I explained that I had been putting up a few extra antennas in anticipation of the OH QSO Party. I was utilizing my MFJ-259B to trim the legs of an inverted Vee on the new antenna. Frank suggested that once I
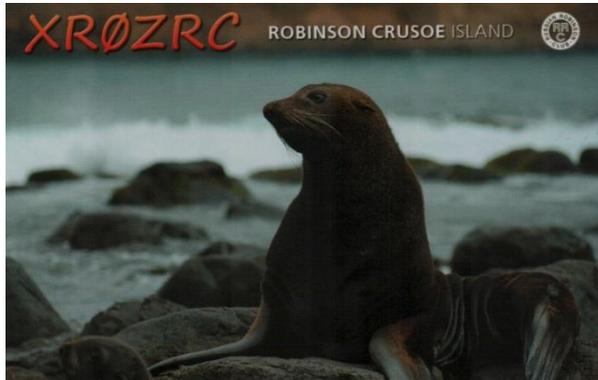
had everything resonant, I utilize the Reverse Beacon Network (RBN) to determine how effective each antenna would be. For instance, would my 80-meter dipole do a better job than my 160-meter inverted L on 40, or should I just stay with my vertical. I had heard of the RBN, but, had not utilized it all. I decided to do some research and thought you might find it interesting as well – Let me know!

A bit of housekeeping first: QSL cards that I received this week include GI4VNO, HB9SPACE, NR8Z, XR0ZC (pictured), XN1M, EI2KM, K8S, and K8FL.

Instead of reinventing the wheel, I thought I would use the info provided on http://www.reversebeacon.net/ From 30,000 feet, think of the Reverse Beacon Network as a bunch of stations listening to various portions of the band and then reporting on what they hear as they hear it!

The Reverse Beacon Network is a revolutionary new idea. Instead of beacons actively transmitting signals, the RBN is a network of stations listening to the bands and reporting what stations they hear, when and how well.

So why should you care? Well, to begin with, you can see band openings in near-real time on an animated map. You can call a quick CQ, and see which reverse beacons hear you, and how strong you are.

But the real breakthrough is in the database of past "spots". You can instantly find out what stations, from a given country or zone, have been heard, at what times and on what frequencies. You can see when you've been spotted, who spotted you, and how loud you were.

"But wait," as they say on the TV ads, "there's more!" Now, for the first time, you can compare your signal with those of your friends and competitors, in near real time or historically. If you wonder how your signal stacked up during last weekend's contests, the Signal Comparison Tool will give you real, quantitative data. Tell it what stations you want to compare, based on signals heard by a given reverse beacon on a certain band at a certain time, and there you'll have it. Of course, whether you like what you see is up to you.

The Reverse Beacon Network depends on volunteer stations. Currently, we have a few dozen, some active almost 24/7, others coming up only occasionally. We have decent coverage in North America and Europe but can always use more. It needn't cost a lot, or tie up your station equipment

TOP ^

A Short History of the Reverse Beacon Network
(originally published in the US National Contest Journal, September-October 2012)
In only 6 years, the Reverse Beacon Network (RBN) has become an established part of the contesting universe. No serious assisted or multiop contest station can afford not to use RBN spots, which now are distributed via more than 100 DX cluster nodes worldwide.

The Beginning

CW Skimmer, software capable of decoding many CW signals at once, was released in early 2008. At the time, the author Alex, VE3NEA viewed it primarily as a DXing tool, permitting efficient monitoring of pileups. It's no surprise that contesters soon saw how they could use it to increase their scores, and controversy quickly erupted as to whether contest rules should permit the use of skimmers. After Alex added telnet capability, potentially permitting a local skimmer to feed spots directly to contest logging software, the debate took over the CQ-Contest reflector. Was this assistance like the DX cluster? Should its use be permitted at all?

Meanwhile, the idea of a Reverse Beacon Network arose out of an e-mail exchange in March 2008 between PY1NB and me. Felipe had been running a unique DX Web site, DXWatch.com, for several years. It offered DX spot filtering tools and mapped spotted contacts on a world map. I had been working with VE3NEA since late 2007 to test, develop and refine CW Skimmer. Felipe saw a way in which the basic framework of DXWatch could be adapted to display skimmer spots.

Also, in March 2008, Felipe wrote the first aggregator software, intended to receive spots from skimmers telnet servers and transmit them to the Web site for display. The Web site was initially the only way to view skimmer spots, and at first, we thought of it primarily as a tool for viewing and studying propagation. We began recruiting contesters and DXers to act as reverse beacons in late March, and the RBN was born.

Through the spring and summer of 2008, controversy raged in the contesting community over whether non-assisted single operators should be allowed to take advantage of this new technology. Just in time for the fall contest season, opinion coalesced around putting CW Skimmer and the RBN in the same category as traditional DX cluster spots, limiting their use in contests to the assisted and multiop categories.

For the remainder of 2008 and through 2009, the RBN focused on developing its network of stations distributed around the globe. Nick, F5VIH/SV3SJ, joined the RBN team in 2010. His computer science background was a great asset, and in March, he rolled out the Signal Analysis Tool, a way to graphically compare signals of multiple stations on multiple bands, as heard by a single skimmer anywhere in the world.

Growth Spurt

A couple of key hardware and software developments added momentum to the RBNs development. The SDR-IQ receiver offered by RFSpace (www.rfspace.com), especially when used with W3OAs SkimScan software, made multiband spotting with a single receiver possible for the first time. Then, Phil, N8VB, released the QS1R software-defined receiver, with a large field-programmable gate array. In summer 2009, VE3NEA released Skimmer Server, software that could simultaneously decode a swath of up to 192 kHz on up to seven bands, using the QS1R. It was, and remains, a programming tour de force.

As more and more of these receivers made their way into the field, the number of RBN stations continued to grow, and because of these developments, the number of spots received grew almost exponentially. By spring 2010, the RBN was feeling serious growing pains. During the ARRL International DX CW that February, the database server was unable to handle the sheer volume of spots, and it crashed repeatedly.

TOP ^

Adding Telnet

At about the same time (neither memories nor records are quite clear) it occurred to us that it might be beneficial to provide RBN-derived DX spots to the worldwide contest and DX community through a telnet server, using DX cluster software. Initially, we were very concerned that the large volume of RBN spots would "leak" inadvertently into the traditional DX cluster network, provoking a worldwide backlash, but we decided that, if worst came to worst, we could always shut down the server.

The potential benefit of providing spots in a format usable by any contest logging software was just too tempting not to try it, so Nick wrote software to link the RBNs database server with a Telnet server. In April 2010 the RBN Telnet node debuted, on a server provided by Rick, K4TD. Almost immediately, it proved very popular, to the point where the server quickly reached full capacity. During the 2010 ARRL November Sweepstakes CW, it collapsed under the load, and many spots were never forwarded.

This would not do. As a stopgap, we added a second temporary server, using AR Cluster software and running on a laptop in my shack. In November 2010, just in time for the CW World Wide CW, Dave, KM3T, joined the RBN team, and George, K5TR, contributed an additional server. Nick made important changes to the server and database infrastructure, and Dave, Nick and Felipe worked hard to ensure that the RBN servers would not fail during the contest. They succeeded, and in 48 hours the telnet servers delivered more than 1.7 million spots from 60 to 70 skimmers, without serious incident.

What really saved our bacon, though, was the decision by DX cluster software developers to support "skimmer" and "non-skimmer" modes, so RBN spots could be distributed by many cluster nodes, rather than directly from the RBN. In September 2010, VE7CC and VE1DX began distributing RBN spots through their cluster servers. Shortly after that, AR Cluster version 6 was released in beta with similar provisions and an advanced filtering scheme. In March 2011, a telnet server using AR Cluster version 6, donated by Jamie, W2QO, was added to the RBNs facilities, spreading the load and allowing for easy distribution of skimmer spots to AR Cluster version 6 clusters worldwide.

Today

In September 2011, Dick, W3OA, joined the team and produced the first Windows aggregator. The beta was a big success, and in succeeding months he delivered increasingly sophisticated versions of the software, which is now in release 2.6, with 3.0 currently in beta. The RBN delivered close to 100 million spots in 2013. Another omen, the number of Skimmers online with the RBN on a typical non-contest weekday rarely dips below 100, and something over 150 different Skimmers were on the network during CQWW CW.

Whats Next?

As far as hardware is concerned, we are in a period of watchful waiting. At some point the database server will max out. This probably will make it necessary to separate it from the Web server, but we seem to have a little way to go yet.

After CQWW 2013, we replaced the original DXSpider Telnet server with another instance of ARCluster V6, because the older, single-threaded software is no longer capable of handling the volume. Felipe is working on a new GUI for the website, to permit more flexible searching and better performance in general.
While the total number of skimmers is growing satisfactorily, we continue to need more coverage in some areas. 2013 saw Chinese amateurs put three new nodes on the air, including one in Urumchi, close to the most remote spot on earth.

TOP ^

Also, in 2013, the Yasme Foundation graciously funded the establishment of a full-capability node in Bangalore, India. We are currently working with IARU Region 1 to secure one or more additional nodes in equatorial Africa. There is no shortage of things to do.

Lessons Learned
Probably the most important lesson we all learned is that technological breakthroughs can have entirely unexpected consequences, but that, in the end, the genie cannot be put back in the bottle. Nobody knew that Alex's CW Skimmer would have such an impact. My e-mail exchanges with him at that time make interesting reading, if only to demonstrate how little we understood where the technology would take us. Each advance in the use of CW Skimmer and the RBN has been due to the willingness of all those involved to "go with the flow".

Volunteer contributions are the key to the RBNs success. Each skimmer setup represents an individual contribution to the project, and except for Felipe's DXWatch server, each of the servers has been donated. We've also received hundreds of dollars in PayPal contributions from users around the world. These all have all been plowed back into the cost of expansion.

Coordination of the project would not have been possible without the Internet, and particularly Skype instant messaging, among core participants in France, Brazil and several parts of the United States. When I reflect on how far we've come in the last 20 years, I'm amazed. This project would not have been possible two decades ago. All of the pieces, hardware, software, the Internet, and especially volunteers, have made it happen.

Where will we go from here? Stay tuned!

+ --+
Here is an update from Bernie, W3UR, of the DailyDX and the WeeklyDX,
the best source for DX information. (http://www.dailydx.com/) Bernie has this to report:
+ --+

6O – Somalia - DXPeditioner LA7GIA, Ken Opskar, says the dates for his upcoming 6O7O single-op DXPedition will be September 14-28. He will be mostly on CW on 160 through 10 meters but will also do some SSB and FT8 on one or two bands. "I will particularly focus on working NA this time, as well low bands", says the experienced DXPeditioner. There he will use verticals and "good RX antennas", hopefully "located far away from noise sources". He also mentioned the Beverage receive antennas will be guarded 24/7. As a skilled DXPeditioner he knows "there is a very short opening to NA on low bands, in particular western part of NA" and asks DXers "follow [his] instructions when it comes to calling for geographical areas".

Ken knows the best time for working NA on the low bands is going to be close to his sunrise. Ken has "some additional security related expenses like armored car, armed guards etc. Anyone wishing to help out can make a donation via PayPal at kenneth@opskar.no. In addition, Ken will be working with Sabona, a Norwegian organization that helps children in Africa. "100% of humanitarian donations received as well any OQRS donation will go to this fundraiser", he reports. Logs will be uploaded to both Club Log and LoTW. For more details about the 6O7O DXPedition check out Ken's website -https://www.la7gia.com/wherenext/ and his Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/L-A-7-G-I-A-DXpeditions707222219710335/?ref=bookmarks

9U – Burundi - IV3TMM, Francesco, is putting 9U3TMM on the air August 31 to September 17, with an IC-7300, 100 watts, to an R8 vertical and LAZV-5B dipole. He is on 60-6M SSB, RTTY, PSK and FT8. Francesco operated there during the Christmas holiday in 2011-2012. QSL through OQRS or LoTW. While there with family he will also visit some parks and possibly activate some World Flora Fauna sites.

TOP ^

VP8/O - South Orkney Islands - 2020 South Orkney Islands DXPedition Co-organizer and Treasurer K5GS, Gene Spinelli, reminds us both the Italian DXPedition Team's Zanzibar Island (above) DXPedition and the VP8/VP8DXU will take place in February 2020. "They will not overlap, the Italian DX Team will be completed by the time South Orkney fires up", says Gene. https://sorkney.com


DX news

ARLD034 DX news

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by The Daily DX, the OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX News, DXNL, Contest Corral from QST and the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all.

FIJI, 3D2. Bigi, DE3BWR and Helmut, DD0VR will be QRV as 3D2VR from September 2 to 9. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using SSB. QSL via DD0VR.

WEST MALAYSIA, 9M2. A large group of operators will be QRV with special event call 9M16KING from Kuala Lumpur from September 1 to 30 in celebration of the 16th Yang di-Pertuan Agong. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and various digital modes. QSL via operators' instructions.

BURUNDI, 9U. Francesco, IV3TMM will be QRV as 9U3TMM from Bujumbura from August 31 to September 17. Activity will be on 60 to 6 meters using SSB, RTTY and FT8. QSL to home call.

KYRGYZSTAN, EX. A group of operators will be QRV as EX6QP from Lake Issyk-Kul from September 2 to 15. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8. QSL via SP6OJK.

FRANCE, F. Christophe, F4GTB will be QRV as TM44WFF from September 2 to 18. Activity will be from several WWFF references. QSL to home call.

NEW CALEDONIA, FK. Jan, F6EYB is QRV as FK8CJ from Noumea, IOTA OC-032, until the end of 2019. Activity is mainly on 30, 20 and 17 meters. QSL to home call.

BULGARIA, LZ. Members of the Bulgarian Radio Club Blagovestnik will be QRV as LZ304EW during September to honor Orthodox saints. QSL via bureau.

AUSTRIA, OE. Members of the VIC Amateur Radio Contest DX Club will be QRV as 4U500M during September to commemorate Ferdinand Magellan's circumnavigation of the globe 500 years ago. QSL via UA3DX.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA, P2. Puiu, P29VIM is QRV from Papua and other nearby islands until September 22. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters, including 60 meters, using CW, JT9 and FT8. QSL via YO5BIM.

NETHERLANDS, PA. Special event station PD538RNI is QRV until September 26 to commemorate Radio North Sea International and Radio Veronica, two 1970 offshore radio stations. QSL via PD0ARI.
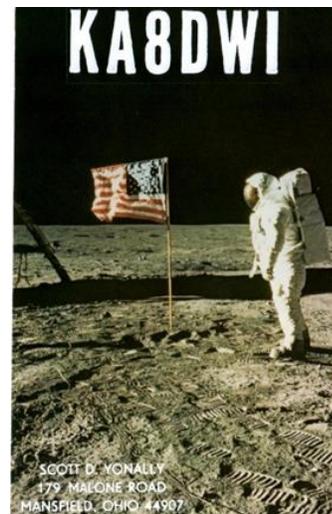
AFGHANISTAN, T6. Robert, S53R will be QRV as T6AA from Kabul from September to the Summer of 2021 while on work assignment. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB and various digital modes. He will be active as T6A during major contests. QSL to home call.

TURKEY, TA. Special event station TC113PTR will be QRV from August 31 to September 1 to commemorate the Ottoman Empire's first wireless telegraphy station in Patara. Activity will be on the HF bands and
6 meters. QSL via TA4E. In addition, look for a group of operators to be QRV as TC0Z from the Kefken Lighthouse on Kefken Island, IOTA AS-159, from August 31 to September 4. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters using SSB and FT8. QSL via LoTW.

CHAD, TT. Jean Louis, ZS6AAG is QRV as TT8JLH from N'Djamena while working with Doctors Without Borders. Activity is in his spare time on 20 meters using SSB. QSL to home call.

CANADA, VE. Alessandro, VE7ADA will be QRV as VE7ADA/1 from Nova Scotia and Cape Breton from September 1 to 7. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters using SSB. His activity will be from various locations and some small islands in NA-081 and NA-010, and from the Marconi National Historic Site at Table Head in Glace Bay, the location of Marconi's first transatlantic station. QSL to home call.

ASCENSION ISLAND, ZD8. Steve, WB4GHY is QRV as ZD8SC until September 1 while on work assignment. Activity is in his spare time on 80 to 10 meters, and possibly 160 meters, using SSB. QSL to home call.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO. The Worldwide Digi DX Contest, QRP 20-Meter CW Fox Hunt, NCCC RTTY Sprint, NCCC CW Sprint, UK/EI SSB DX Contest, Colorado QSO Party and Tennessee QSO Party are all on tap for this weekend.

The Hiram Percy Maxim 150th Birthday Celebration runs from August 31 to September 8.

The MI QRP Labor Day CW Sprint and RSGB FT4 Contest Series are scheduled for September 2.

The ARS Spartan CW Sprint is scheduled for September 3.

G3ZQS Memorial Straight Key CW Contest is scheduled for September 4.

The Canadian National Parks on the Air, CNPOTA, operating event runs for the entire year of 2019, with special stations active from Canada's parks and historic sites.

Please see August QST, page 84, September QST, page 80, and the ARRL and WA7BNM Contest Web Sites for details.

#########

Special Events

Ohio State Parks on the Air

Make sure to mark your calendar for the 2019 Ohio State Parks On The Air (OSPOTA) contest –
September 7, 2019. The contest is always held on the first Saturday following the Labor Day holiday.

Each year this event has grown, and we anticipate another year of growth with even more participating Amateur Radio Operators.

Let me remind you that the OSPOTA contest was conceived with three main goals in mind:
- To promote public awareness of amateur radio and Ohio's beautiful state parks system;
- To contribute to the recognition that Ohio has a very diverse and wonderful ecology;
- To promote camaraderie within the ranks of Ohio's Amateur Radio Operators

Your participation has allowed these goals to be achieved. We agree it is a lot of fun to get out in a natural setting with your radio and see how well you can do at working operators in the beautiful Ohio State Parks.

This will be the 12th annual OSPOTA – Make plans now to be active in OSPOTA 2019.

The 2019 files are now being posted both here on the OSPOTA web site and the OSPOTA IO Group site. Don't forget – we have an OSPOTA E-mail Group located at: https://groups.io/g/OSPOTA

The OSPOTA IO Group page is used for messaging and sharing of information about OSPOTA for all the fans and participants in the OSPOTA contest. The E-mail Group is where the action is.

Since we do allow spotting to encourage more contacts during OSPOTA, Facebook is being used before and during the contest for instant updates and to share stories and photos.

As the contest draws near, we'll be posting on the OSPOTA E-mail Group page the anticipated 'who's going to be at what Ohio State Park' or 'Planned Park' list as we have in past years. Send your planned park activation information to PlannedParks@ospota.org . Please, include the call sign that will be used and the Ohio State Park you plan to be at. If your plans change, just let us know and we'll update the list.

Notes: Some Ohio State Parks are being managed by local park systems, but they are still listed and considered to be Ohio State Parks according to ODNR (Quail Hollow & Tinkers Creek). NEW STATE PARK for 2019 – Jesse Owens State Park. There are now 75 Ohio State Parks.

So – pick a park and make your plans now for OSPOTA 2019 !!!!!! Take care & 73 from the entire OSPOTA contest Committee,

Tom, KB8UUZ OSPOTA Chairman OSPOTA   Questions? Email: INFO@ospota.org

When the OSPOTA contest is over, send Logs and Summary Sheets to: Logs@ospota.org

#########

09/13-22/2019 | We will honor and support our Veterans with a Special Event on the air as K4MIA/8. Linda N8LRS and Metro W8MET will be the sister-station from Ohio for the 4th year.

09/14/2019 | Harvey Houses on the Air Special Event Stations
Harvey Houses on the Air Special Event Stations will activate many of the 84 historic Harvey Houses each year on the second Saturday of September (in 2019, this is **September 14**). Last year there were seven HHOTA activations and this year we are expecting 15.

You probably know Fred Harvey built and operated Harvey House Hotels and Restaurants (both commonly referred to as Harvey Houses) along western railroads. Apparently, the only Harvey House in Ohio was in Cleveland's Union Terminal Station.   HHOTA information is at www.qsl.net/vcara which includes links to more information about Harvey Houses and the famous Harvey Girls recruited as staff.

Thank you and 73, *Andrew Eldridge, AE5NM* HHOTA Coordinator
New Mexico's Valencia County Amateur Radio Association is sponsoring HHOTA.

09/21/2019 | Voice of America-Bethany Relay Station 75th Anniversary
Sep 21, 1500Z-2200Z, WC8VOA, West Chester, OH. West Chester Amateur Radio Association. 14.240 14.270. Certificate. Mike Braun, PO Box 913, West Chester, OH 45071. Certificate will be available 72 hours after the event at wc8voa.org wc8voa.org

09/22/2019 | Flying Beers International Fall FUN Raiser
Sep 22, 1000Z-1800Z, K8FBI, Ferndale, MI. Flying Beers International. 14.240 7.240. QSL. Flying Beers International ARC, 600 Woodward Heights, Ferndale, MI 48220. Operating on 40 and possibly 20 as conditions allow, CW, SSB and Yay-Em. Physical QSL cards will be sent for the fun of it. www.FlyingBeers.org

09/28/2019 | Boy Scouts of America Rendezvous in the D
Sep 28, 1300Z-2000Z, K2BSA/8, Detroit, MI. Great Lakes Scout Radio Club. 14.290 7.270. QSL. Frank Maynard, NF8M, 44683 Mansfield Dr., Novi, MI 48375. https://www.qrz.com/db/wb8bsa

10/19/2019 | 100th Anniversary of Michigan State University Amateur Radio Club
Oct 19, 1600Z-2200Z, W8SH, East Lansing, MI. Michigan State University Amateur Radio Club. 14.250 14.050 7.250 7.050. QSL. MSUARC/W8SH, ECE Dept. #2121, 428 S. Shaw Ln. , East Lansing, MI 48824. Original call 8YG. msuarc@egr.msu.edu


ARRL Contest Corner

An expanded, downloadable version of *QST's* Contest Corral is available as a PDF. Check the sponsor's Web site for information on operating time restrictions and other instructions.

TOP ^

V.E. Test Sessions

For the latest testing site information please **>> Click Here <<** The ARRL site tracks all of the VE testing sites that register with them, including W5YI and Laurel. ARRL gives you a number of different ways of sorting to find that site that is closest to you as well.

One Question Questionnaire

Hey Gang,

Oh my!! It seems that about **55%** of you have purchased something at a hamfest that you'll never use!! That's about what I figured just going on what I do at hamfests. Sometimes you just gotta' buy that weird item that you think you'll use someday.

I've got another NEW – one question – on the Ohio Section Website for you to answer!

I was reading some articles this week about FT-8 and FT-4 and it got me to wondering just how many of you out there operate on either one of those modes So, with this in mind, here's the question for this next week.

"Have you operated on FT-8 or FT-4 ??"

These One Question questionnaires are all in fun and I hope that you are enjoying answering them.

You'll find the "One Question" questionnaire on the Ohio Section Website! http://arrlohio.org   It's all in fun and it's not a scientific survey in any way, but we are learning some things that we didn't know from these questions. I hope that you are enjoying answering these "One Question" questionnaires.

ARES Connect

OK.. Let's get down to really using this new system for everything that it's worth! New Volunteer sign ups have really slowed down lately and I know that we still have a bunch of folks that aren't signed up yet. I'm setting a goal for all of you out there. **Let's get everyone in the Ohio Section on ARES Connect before the end of this year!!!**

Do you need help with how to sign-up for an event or log your hours? How about you Administrators, do you have questions about approving your volunteer's hours or how-to set-up a recurring event? I've got the answer for all of you. I have a new webpage with step-by-step instructions on how to do those things and many more.

TOP ^

I also have a "Hints and Kinks" section that has a lot of great information on how to do something or why something works like it does. Here's the page: http://arrl-ohio.org/SEC/connect/index.html You can also find this link on the main page of the Ohio Section website as well.. It's just under the "Enter ARES Connect" link.

If you live in **Ohio** and you haven't registered yet, we need you to get registered now. We need you to only use this URL to get registered https://arrl.volunteerhub.com/lp/oh/. Using any other entrance to register will only slow down your registration process. Again, this is for those living in Ohio only. If you are an out of state person (not Ohio), you can simply change the **/oh/** to your 2-letter state designation. This will put you in the correct state for signing up.

Now, I am starting to see folks creating more than one account because they can't remember their password from the one that they originally setup. Please don't do this. The system has a really good way of sending you a link to your email address so that you can refresh your password. If you are experiencing problems with getting to this link, contact me: n8sy@n8sy.com and I'll get it fixed for you.

Here's the top 10 hours earners for August:

	Name	**Events**	**Hours**
1	Bret Stemen (KD8SCL)	38	154.00
2	Christopher Domenick (KC8CAD)	25	121.00
3	Alan Rothweiler (N8CJ)	32	96.00
4	Carl Gedeon (KB8VXE)	6	80.50
5	Dan Stahl (KC8PBU)	55	75.76
6	James Yoder (w8erw)	16	75.17
7	James Grimes (AD8AP)	11	73.00
8	John Major (KD8MMY)	20	69.00
9	Elizabeth Klinc (KE8FMJ)	38	66.66
10	Donald Kemp (NN8B)	12	66.00

As you can see from the above listing, we can get real time information that shows how many hours, who volunteered and what they volunteered for. There's a ton of information that we can draw out of the system.

We now have **1,223** registered and growing every day in the system. What's really interesting is as of this same date there are **11,532** registered in the entire country. This means that the Ohio Section makes up over **10.60%** of those registered.

Here's a link to get you started... http://www.arrl-ohio.org/SEC/connect/ares_connect_directions.pdf
Please, don't just hurry through the questions, read them carefully, if you don't understand something, please ask me, I'm here to answer your questions.

Hey, let me say that this system is really great if you forget a meeting time or location? Just look it up on the calendar and there you have it. If setup, you can even see the location on a map! I have attended many meetings and gatherings just because it was listed on ARES Connect and I found it just browsing around. I wouldn't have known about it if it hadn't been on the ARES Connect Calendar!

This and That's

700 MHz Interference at Mexican Border Affecting Public Safety
(By [Sandra Wendelken, Editor](), Radioresource, Submitted and edited by Gregory Drezdzon, WD9FTZ)

Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) stepped in on the issue of 700 MHz interference with public-safety communications networks at the Mexican border.

Cruz sent a letter to FCC Chairman Ajit Pai and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo requesting their quick attention to Altán Redes (Altán), which plans to begin operations of its wholesale wireless 700 MHz network in Mexico.

Altán is a private Mexican company that operates Red Compartida, a wholesale 700 MHz mobile broadband network that aims to increase the coverage of Long-Term Evolution (LTE) services to at least 92.2% of the Mexican population. Red Compartida is developed through a public-private partnership (PPP) with the Mexico government.

In May, Airbus launched MXLINK, a secure mobile virtual network operator (SMVNO) for Mexican public-safety and defense authorities. Airbus said MXLINK takes advantage of the deployment of Red Compartida for a reliable, secure, high-quality service for members of public-safety organizations.

The letter from Cruz said Altán's service will cause harmful interference to existing U.S. networks, including those used by federal and local law enforcement, hospitals, the military and local governments.

Cruz said the University Medical Center in El Paso, Texas, where more than 10 people injured in the mass shooting at an El Paso Walmart Aug. 3 were being treated, nearly lost wireless service Aug. 5 because of testing Altán conducted in Ciudad Juarez, a Mexican city across the border from El Paso.

The testing also negatively affected connectivity for the city of El Paso's fire and rescue services, including network-connected defibrillators and other equipment in ambulances that communicate to the hospitals receiving the patients. Cruz also cited a loss of network coverage for critical equipment in El Paso Police Department patrol cars.

Cruz also said the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet), which operates in the 700 MHz band, could be negatively impacted if Altán proceeds with full operations.

"I ask you to make clear to the relevant Mexican authorities — at the highest levels — that a mutually satisfactory solution must be found before Mexico allows Altán to begin operations," Cruz said.

In response, Pai said he spoke Aug. 19 to his counterpart in Mexico, Chairman Gabriel Contreras Saldívar of the Instituto Federal de Telecomunicaciones (IFT), about the issue and explained that even limited operations by Altán to date had caused interference, including to public-safety communications.

Pai said he had spoken to another Mexican office, and his staff also worked on the issue. The FCC has been engaged, in coordination with the State Department and IFT, in creating a revised protocol to govern use of the 700 MHz band across the border, since Mexico chose to implement an incompatible 700 MHz band plan.

"Based on that extensive groundwork, we believed that there was a path forward that accommodated both robust U.S. carrier operations and the deployment of Altán's network in that band," Pai said in a response letter to Cruz.

"… Given the promising exchanges on a revised protocol, it was a shock to learn at the 11th hour that Altán unilaterally decided to turn on its network at a time and in a manner that would directly and foreseeably cause harmful interference to U.S. cellular carriers and their customers who rely on them on a daily basis. Once we learned of this, we immediately contacted and shared the limited information we had with all domestic carriers potentially affected by Altán's initiation of service, as well as the State Department."

"While I unfortunately cannot tell you that this situation has been resolved, I want you to know that the FCC will continue to make every effort to ensure that the negative consequences of Altán's decision do not come to pass."

"This matter is one between countries and not between carriers, so it is a topic for the government agencies," an Altán spokesperson said in response to a request for comment. "In any case, Altán is deploying and operating its network in strict compliance with the obligations of its concession and the radiation protocols in force with the United States."

ICS 300 & 400 Classes Being Offered

Hey Gang,

This is the last call on this… Here's an opportunity that doesn't happen very often for sure. It's weekend classes for ICS 300/400. If you have even just thought about taking these courses, you might want to consider reading further on this. If you can spend a couple of weekends near the end of September, these classes are for you.

ICS-300 INTERMEDIATE ICS FOR EXPANDING EVENTS
Hosted by: Ashland County HS & EMA and Holmes County EMA September 20 - 22, 2019

Course Description: This 21-hour classroom course provides training for personnel who require advanced application of the Incident Command System (ICS) and Individuals who may assume a supervisory role in incidents. This course expands upon information covered in the ICS 100 and ICS 200 courses.

Application Deadline: **September 6, 2019**

Course Registration time: 5:30 pm to 6:00 pm (day one)

Course Time: 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm (day one)
8:00 am to 6:00 pm (day two & three) (one-hour for lunch on day two & three)

Training Location: Loudonville Fire Station 200 North Market Street Loudonville, Ohio 44842

Recommended Participants: FEMA designed this course for individuals who may assume a supervisory role in expanding incidents or Type 3 incidents.

TOP ^

Note: During a Type 3 incident, some or all of the Command and General Staff positions may be activated, as well as Division/Group Supervisor and/or Unit Leader level positions. These incidents may extend into multiple operational periods.

Required Prerequisites: Individuals must complete the IS-100.c Introduction to the Incident Command System, IS-200.c Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response, IS-700.b An Introduction to the National Incident Management System and IS-800.c National Response Framework courses prior to attending the ICS-300 Intermediate course and provide copies of their certificates of completion to the instructors on day one of the course.

Enrollment: Students must enroll via the Department of Public Safety Training Campus website: https://trainingcampus.dps.ohio.gov/cm/cm710/pstc/pstc.html. Course registration will generally close 10 working days prior to the course start date and applicants can check enrollment/approval status via the Department of Public Safety Training Campus website.

Course Costs: There is no charge for participants to attend this course. However, Lodging, Meals, Per Diem and all other travel expenses are the responsibility of the student or the parent organization.

State Point of Contact: Lisa Jones, DSC 2, Ohio EMA, SAA Training Point of Contact, (614) 799-3824 ljones@dps.ohio.gov.

<center>********</center>

ICS-400 ADVANCED ICS FOR COMMAND & GENERAL STAFF
Hosted by: Ashland County HS & EMA and Holmes County EMA September 28 – 29, 2019

Course Description: This 15-hour classroom course provides training for personnel who require advanced application of the Incident Command System (ICS). This course expands upon information covered in ICS-100, 200, 700, 800 and ICS-300 courses, which are the prerequisites for the ICS-400 course. The target audience for this course is senior personnel who are expected to perform in a management capacity in an Area Command or Multi-Agency Coordination Entity.

Application Deadline: **September 14, 2019**

Course Registration time: 7:30 am to 8:00 am (day one)

Course Time: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm (day one & two) (one-hour lunch each day)

Training Location: Loudonville Fire Station 200 North Market Street Loudonville, Ohio 44842

Recommended Participants: FEMA designed the course for Senior Personnel who expect to perform in a management capacity in an Area Command or Multi-Agency Coordination Entity.

Required Prerequisites: Prior to attending the ICS-400 Advanced course, individuals must complete the IS-100.c Introduction to the Incident Command System course; IS-200.c Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response; IS-700.b An Introduction to the National Incident Management System; IS-800.c National Response Framework, an Introduction, and ICS-300 Intermediate courses. Students must provide these certificates of completion to the instructors on day one of the course.

TOP ^

Enrollment: Students must enroll via the Department of Public Safety Training Campus website: https://trainingcampus.dps.ohio.gov/cm/cm710/pstc/pstc.html. Course registration will generally close 10 working days prior to the course start date and applicants can check enrollment/approval status via the Department of Public Safety Training Campus website.

Course Costs: There is no charge for participants to attend this course. However, Lodging, Meals, Per Diem and all other travel expenses are the responsibility of the student or the parent organization.

State Point of Contact: Lisa Jones, DSC 2, Ohio EMA, SAA Training Point of Contact, (614) 799-3824 ljones@dps.ohio.gov.

It is the goal of Ohio EMA to ensure that all students have the tools necessary for successful course completion. If students require additional accommodations, they should make the Ohio EMA training office aware, and staff will confidentially meet reasonable requests.

New Webpages Added to the Ohio Section Website

Is your club's newsletter available to share? I've got a new webpage that has links to all of the known websites where club newsletters can be accessed throughout Ohio.

Now, as we all know when any list is published, it's outdated immediately. That's ok, just send me the link to your club's newsletter and I'll get it on the webpage – n8sy@n8sy.com

Here's the link: http://arrl-ohio.org/club_link/links-to-newsletters.html   Remember, we're all here to help each other. What a great way to share the news about Amateur Radio!!

New Photo Gallery Added

The Ohio QSO Party as well as a new event Courthouses On The Air was held just recently. We've got a Gallery started with a bunch of the pictures that got captured and sent to me for these two events. Go to: http://arrl-ohio.org/special819/ to view them. Got pictures of ones of these events that you don't see? Send them to me at: n8sy@n8sy.com and I'll get them posted.

Hey, remember this, I take from all the pictures I get to make the Ohio Section Banner. It's getting time to start putting together some pictures for a new banner. Are your pictures among them? If not, get them to me.

Ohio VOAD Needs Help

Ohio VOAD is looking for a **Communications Chairperson** that can take over the responsibilities of posting information on their Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Qualifications needed to apply: Experience posting to Facebook, Twitter and other Social Media sites a must. Having experience with updating websites is a plus, but not mandatory. Able to attend daytime meetings in Columbus and willing to post items to these various sites as they happen.

This is a position for a person that is a true volunteer and wants to give back to their community. For more information contact Scott, N8SY at n8sy@n8sy.com

<p style="text-align:center">#########</p>

Welcome New Subscribers

Patrick, KA8DAL; Andrew, K8ALG

Final.. Final..

Hey Gang...

This has been another interesting week for sure. Again, like many of you I received another round of emails from the folks at Connect Systems still offering deals on the CS-800D radio before it gets Part 90 accepted and some other goodies, and it's those other goodies caught my eye this time around. Well, at least one of them did. It's called the BFD or "Big Front Display" for the 800D and several other radio models, but since I had just bought the 800D I took a good long and hard look at this big screen. I was particularly interested since I bought the 800D for the shack and not the car. So, with this once again "once in a lifetime opportunity" starring me in the email box, I decided to take the plunge.

The big screen is a really cool feature and it really adds a special touch to the shack as well. It has its own set of things that it can do in addition to the radio itself, and having this option being sold for ½ price is also very pleasing to the wallet and the YL as well.

Here's what the display looks like.. I think it's a pretty good addition to the shack…

TOP ^

Now… My vertical HF antenna project got underway this week as well. I decided to go ahead and get the Hustler 4 BTV vertical.

Of course, this story doesn't stop there. As you are all aware, just having the antenna doesn't get it on the air or even in the backyard. This was a whole 'nother project. Yes, I've been a very busy boy this past week for sure!!

Once you've taken the plunge and actually purchased the antenna you've got a lot of preparation work ahead of you. Now why am I writing about this? I thought it would be good information for those newbies and oldbies like me that have never purchased a vertical before to see just what it takes to get this antenna on the air. Yes, you've passed your General or Extra and now you're looking to get on HF quickly. Well, it does take some thought, negotiations, and as they say on This Old House "Some Sweat Equity" to make it all happen.

You can't just plop down an antenna just anywhere. You have to find just the right spot where it won't be too obtrusive to the neighborhood, and yet it will still be functional, in other words you need to employ the services of your YL/wife to make sure that you haven't picked a spot that was supposed to be a future flower garden or other backyard project that you haven't gotten around to and promised her to do years before. And, it doesn't fall in the middle of a rock garden, it's clear of trees, power lines and anything else that might be overhead or underground.

So, I have ¾ of an acre of yard and about ½ of that is backyard. Surely, you'd think that it would be easy to find a 4-foot by 4-foot space somewhere back there, right?? Well, maybe… After some good-natured verbalization between me and Janie on what I had promised to do last summer with every space that I thought would be good for this new vertical, it came down to some very serious negotiations. I'll leave it there and let you decide what is important and what isn't in your negotiating process. Me, I'm staying mute on the subject.

Now, starts the prep work for my little plot of ground.

First, I made sure that there are no above ground or underground items that might tend to change my existence on this earth. Yes, I'm talking about making sure that those hidden power, water, sewer and gas lines aren't right under that perfect spot. If you aren't sure, call 811 and have them trace everything out for you. After that is all clear, the real work begins.

You need to de-grass the area, so you have a clean spot to work in. Having it down to the dirt also makes it look like you really know what you're doing.

With the area de-grassed you can now begin to dig. Now, what you use to dig a hole with really separates the men from the boys. I don't have one of those fancy gas-powered augers like some do, so for me it's break out the 1880's manual post hole diggers. Yes folks, these little gems were invented to make holes in the ground and make your back and arms hurt for days afterward. You'll know just how a ditch digger feels by the time you get done with this.

TOP ^

Now, remember I said that I had the ground all checked out for electrical, gas, water and sewer, well, at around the 3 foot mark I found an old 4 wire telephone cable that must have been used for an intercom or remote telephone line sometime in the past. After I found it, I did carefully check to see whether it was live or not. Fortunately for me, it wasn't live, nor were there any telephone conversations going on, so I simply cut it out of the way. Between the surprise with the telephone wire, millions of rocks, clay hard enough that it could be concrete, what looked like dog bones (at least I think that's what they were) and tree roots the size of my arms, it took most of the afternoon to get the hole down to 48 inches. Yes, this is further down than what I really needed to go, (32 inches is considered the frost line in this part of the country) but I wanted to make sure that someone couldn't just pull it out of the ground and run off with it. Remember, my new vertical antenna was

going to be mounting on this pole. If someone wanted to steal it, they'd have to get that deeply rooted post out of the ground first!

Now, with a hole dug that would make any groundhog proud, I did backfill the hole with some pea gravel for good drainage. This brought the hole back up to the 42-inch mark. I then set the treated 4x4 post down in the hole and backfilled with a 50-pound bag of fast setting cement and completed filling the hole with dirt. Remember what I said, if someone was going to steal it, they were really going to have to work at it to get it.

After I got the backfill in, I used 2 levels just to make sure that the post was level and plum. Afterall, I didn't want to go to all of this work and have my antenna tilting over like the Leaning Tower of Pisa!

The directions on the bag of cement say, I had to leave the post go for at least 24 hours for the concrete to properly setup. That was ok with me since I hurt so bad that I couldn't have done any work assembling the antenna anyway.

Now, wouldn't you know it, Monday and Tuesday came and went with it raining most of the day. Finally, Wednesday got here, and I got my chores around the house done and decided it was time for me to get to work on the antenna project again. So, the first thing on the agenda was to get an 8-foot ground rod driven into the ground just east of the post. This would make sure that I didn't let any unwanted static electricity into the house from the antenna. I will also employ the house grounds as well. Yes, this might be overkill, but I just felt that it would be better in the end for me if I had this extra bit of protection

Keep in mind driving this 8-foot rod into the clay, rocks, tree roots and so forth is no easy project. It took almost an hour to get that 5/8 inch by 8-foot rod down to just where there was less than 6 inches of it still out of the ground. Talk about being tired, I again used the same muscles that I had used the other day to dig the hole for the post!
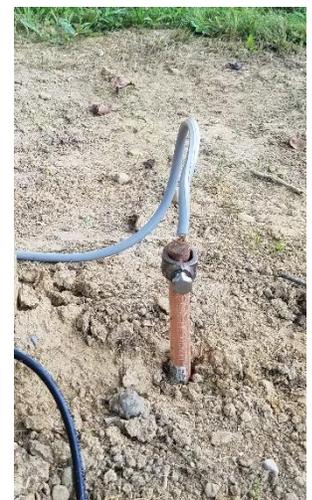
I purchased, and highly recommend, the tilt over base that DX Engineering sells for these antennas. It's really handy when going through the tuning process on the antenna, as that it allows you to easily and quickly lay the antenna over all by yourself. I got it mounted to the post as well. And yes, you guessed it, it started to rain again. But this time I was really prepared, I worked through the afternoon just assembling the 4BTV in my garage. The assembly was simple, and everything was marked really well, so it only took around 2 hours to get that 21-foot beauty all together and ready to mount. Wouldn't you know it, there's no one around to help. So, once Janie got home and changed her clothes, we took the antenna out and finally mounted it on the pole. This is where those good negotiations pay off, you get that little extra help that you need. It isn't recommended and I totally agree, not to try to mount this antenna by yourself. It isn't that its particularly heavy, but it is very awkward to hold it in the right position and make sure that all the bolts, washers and nuts are located properly so that you can secure it to the pole without that extra help.

Now that the antenna is mounted securely it's time to run the coax. Oh heck, it's starting to rain again. I'm not one to try to mimic Ben Franklin, so the project is on hold for another day. One without all the lightening around.

Having no experience in my 40 plus years of being a ham with verticals (I've always been a dipole person), I am sticking close to what the book says to do on the assembly and adjustments. Now that we've got the antenna at its preliminary adjusted points, we have to create an RF choke on the feedline so that it will not allow the coax to act as a radial and feed into the radio. Oh, maybe now is the time to tell you that I've decided not to run any radials on the ground, at least for now anyway. I really want to see just how the antenna performs without them before getting all excited and worked up about putting out ten thousand feet of wire on the ground, of which, my mower will probably chew up most of it the first time I mow back there. The book recommended 10 full winds of coax 6 inches in diameter. Now this seemed like it would be child's play after digging the hole to China but try to find anything that is just 6 inches in diameter to use as a form was next to impossible! I ended up making a 6-inch cardboard form and carefully wound the coax on it. I got it all very pretty and then tried to get it off of the form without undoing everything that I just did. What a mess. I couldn't seem to get the wire taped well enough to keep it from overlapping itself when I took it off of the form. I finally ended up putting the tape upside down (sticky side up) on the form and then wrapped the coax onto the tape and form. I also cut a couple of small pieces of old paneling to help hold the coax in place to keep it from overlapping itself once I removed it from the form. Got it, finally!!! Wow, what a time I had with something that I thought would be so simple to do. The instructions are very specific and state that I not only need this RF Choke at the antenna side but also on the radio side as well. Great! I gotta' do this again. Lesson learned, don't underestimate just how hard it is to properly wind coax into a 6-inch coil.

I Got the coax connected to the antenna and run over to the entrance to the house. I'm using RG8X and it's rated for direct burial, so when I get done, I'll just burry the cable the best I can using the shortest distance possible. Remember what I said about the ground… it's full of rocks and clay and all sorts of objects.

I have an all brick home so I had to break out my masonry drill bit and measure out just where the hole should go. Too high and I'm going to be in the bedroom. I'll have a whole new set of negotiations to do if that happens.

TOP ^

Too low and I'll be inside of the wall of the shack where I'll have to tear out the paneling to get to it. Yes, this is precision work for sure. Luckily, I got it right the first time and got the coax run in the house. Now, don't forget that I've got to get a PL 259 connector put on and make another RF Choke.

Wow.. once again, I had a tough time with the choke, but I finally got it and with the connector mounted I'm ready to connect to the radio. Since I already have another antenna just for 75/80-meters, I have to insert a coaxial switch so that I can switch between the two antennas. Got all of that mounted and a new jumper between the switch and SWR bridge. I'm now ready to test the antenna.

Wow. I'm glad I followed the directions closely, but without radials it tunes up somewhat differently than what I was expecting. In fact, after making 20 different runs from the basement where the radio room is located to the antenna making just small adjustments in the antenna length, I finally got the antenna to resonate somewhere close to where it should be. I won't have to worry about take a walk tonight for exercise. I got it running up and down the basement steps and off and on our back decks. My legs feel like they are ready to fall off. Once again, I'm hitting the aspirin bottle!!

Yes, this has been a lot of work, but I'm sure that when old man winter hits and I'm sitting nice and warm in the shack with the radio tuned to 40, 20, 15 or 10 meters, I'll be thinking back on what it took to get to this point and happy that I did this.

Switching bands… Have you taken the time to get signed up in "ARES Connect" yet? I know that this must sound like a broken record, but it is important for everyone to not only get signed up but start using as well. If you haven't already signed up, now is the time. I've set a goal of everyone getting signed up by the end of the year! I'm confident that we'll make that date for sure!!

Sliding down the band a bit… Daniel, KB8LKH has some updates on his code plugs and instructions for the 868, 800 and 800D radios. Go check them out. http://arrl-ohio.org/digital/kb8lkh.html

We've also had some new pictures added to the photo gallery for the Ohio QSO and Courthouses on the Air activity as well. http://arrl-ohio.org/special819/

Is your club doing any special activities that you'd like the Section to know about? Do you have a story that you'd like to tell about something that you or your club has or is doing? Let me know about it and let's get it in the next edition!

Whelp… That's going to do it for this time around. Stay safe, enjoy the sunshine while we have it, and most of all… have FUN!!

73,
Scott, N8SY

TOP ^

Back Issues of the PostScript and Ohio Section Journal (OSJ)

Hey, did you know that PostScript and Ohio Section Journal (OSJ) are archived on the website? You can go back and look at any edition simply by clicking:
http://arrl-ohio.org/news/index.html

Labor Day

Labor Day in the United States of America is a public holiday celebrated on the first Monday in September. It honors the American labor movement and the power of collective action by laborers, who are essential for the workings of society. It is the Monday of the long weekend known as **Labor Day Weekend**. It is recognized as a federal holiday.

Oregon was the first state of the United States to make it an official public holiday in 1887.

Chit – Chat, and All That!

Do you know someone that's not getting these Newsletters? Please, forward a copy of this Newsletter over to them and have them "Opt-In" to start receiving them. Heck, just have them send me an email   n8sy@n8sy.com and I'll get them added to the Ohio Section Emailing list.

We now have many thousands of readers receiving these newsletters weekly. Quite impressive, I'd say! I urge all of you to make sure that everyone, regardless of whether they are a League member or not, get signed up to receive these weekly Newsletters.

You can always "Opt-Out" at any time if you feel this is not what you were expecting. It's fun and very informative. All of your favorite past newsletters are now archived too. You can go back at any time and read them. Just go to: http://arrl-ohio.org/news/

Got questions, concerns or would just like to sit and chat awhile? Heck, I'll even buy the coffee!! Give me a call at (419) 512-4445 or email me at: n8sy@n8sy.com

The pictures on the front page are from various newsletters, Facebook posts and/or were sent directly to me in recent weeks. Take a good look at them, you just might be in one of the pictures! "SMILE… you're on the Ohio Section News!!"

TOP ^

PostScript is produced as a weekly newsletter. I want to thank everyone that has contributed articles and ideas to make this an even better news source. I sincerely hope that you have enjoyed this edition and will encourage your friends to join with you in receiving the latest news and information about the Ohio Section, and news and events happening around the world!